

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: May 20, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Rebecca Sayers, Interim Recreation Services Director

CC: Josh Copley, Shane Dille, Barbara Goodrich, Andy Bertelsen, Leadership Team

SUBJECT: Locker room policy at the Flagstaff Aquaplex

DISCUSSION

This CCR is in response to inquiries on the Flagstaff Aquaplex's locker room policy and signage.

The Flagstaff Aquaplex has two locker rooms, one for men and one for women, with open changing areas and individual shower and toilet stalls. The Aquaplex also has six family "cabanas" or single stall restrooms with their own toilet, shower, sink, and changing area. Two of the six cabanas are fully accessible. The cabanas are available for anyone to use, but they are intended for families to be able to assist small children or for the disabled who need assistance.

Due to complaints received from patrons after the facility opened in 2008, staff developed a policy requesting that children over the age of five use the locker room corresponding to their gender, or if parents wished to accompany their child they were requested to use the family cabanas. This is a common policy for fitness facilities with locker rooms that include showers and changing areas. The policy is intended to protect the privacy of adults who are uncomfortable changing in front of older children of the opposite gender. Even with this policy in place, staff routinely get complaints from patrons about other patrons who do not follow it. The policy is in no way intended to be discriminatory. All Recreation facilities are fully inclusive and all staff strive to meet the needs of all of our guests.

Staff has worked with Legal this week to develop improved language for the signs that inform patrons of this policy. The new signs were posted on Friday, May 20, and read:

"We encourage parents with young children of the opposite gender who need assistance with showering and dressing to use the family cabanas that are located in the main hallway entering the pool area.

Children five years of age or younger are allowed in the main locker rooms with either parent.

Thank you for your cooperation."

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION

This report is for information only.